How the Ruling Class Stole Your Money Through Housing & Essential Goods & Blamed Immigrants for It

On paper, if wages grew more than inflation, people *should* be better off. But here's why many Australians still feel poorer despite long-run wage growth:

Key Reasons

1. Housing Costs Outpaced Everything

- House prices and rents have grown **much faster** than wages and general inflation since the 1990s.
- Example:
    - Median house price in Sydney 1980s ≈ **3–4× annual income**.
    - By 2020s ≈ **10–15× annual income**.
- This means younger and working-class Australians spend far more of their income on housing.

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2. Inequality in Wage Growth

- The **average wage** went up, but not evenly:
    - High-income earners (executives, professionals) saw much larger gains.
    - Low- and middle-income workers (hospitality, retail, care work) have had stagnant or declining **real wages**.
- The "average" masks the struggles of most workers.

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3. Rising Non-Housing Costs

- Essential costs (childcare, health insurance, education, electricity, transport) often rise faster than CPI.
- CPI averages all goods, but households can't easily cut back on essentials.
- Result: real household budgets are squeezed, even if wages look good on paper.

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4. Stagnation in Recent Decades

- Most of the "wage growth outpacing inflation" happened **before 2000**.

- Since ~2013, **real wages have barely moved**.
- During the pandemic, inflation surged while wage growth stayed weak → **a sudden fall in living standards**.

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5. Wealth vs. Income

- Long-term wealth accumulation (housing, superannuation, shares) went to those who already owned assets.
- Working-class Australians relying only on wages fell behind, even if wages nominally beat inflation over 75 years.

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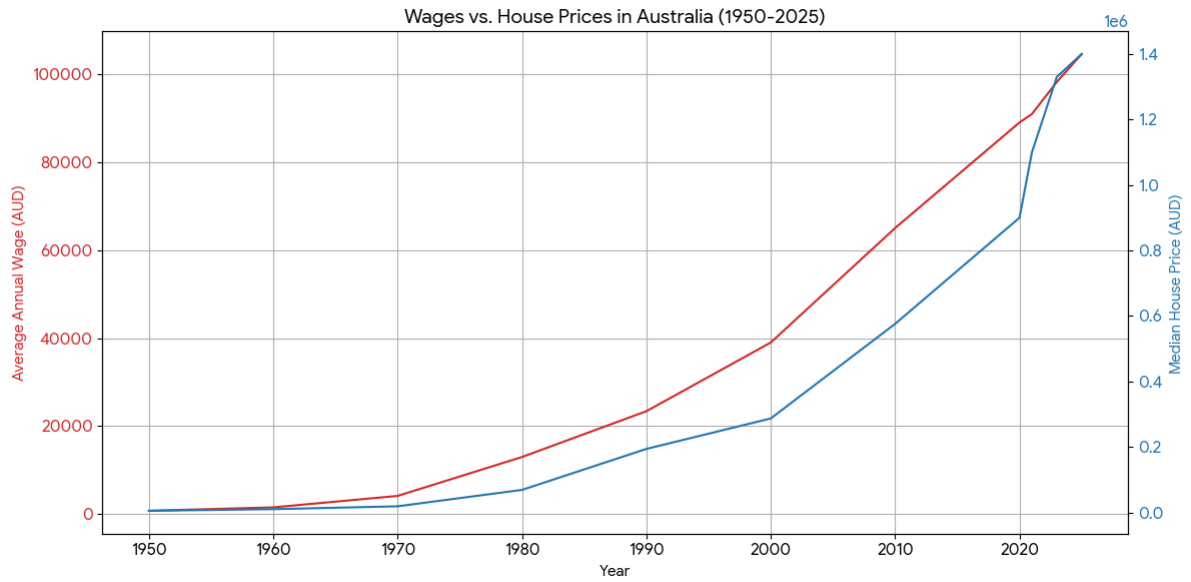
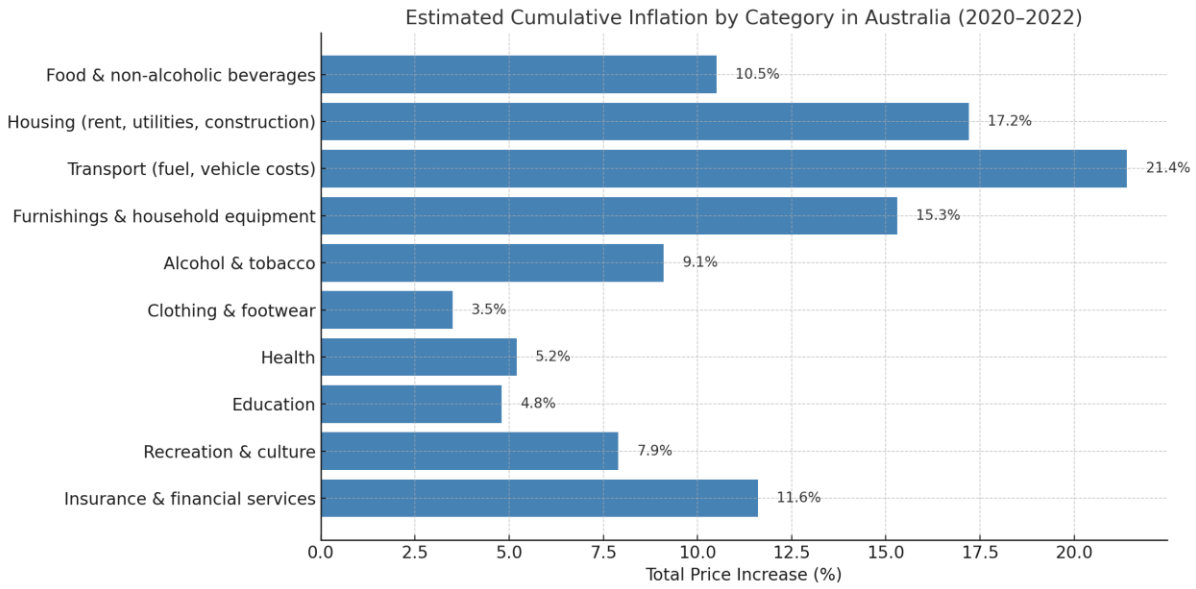
6. **The Widening Gap: A Visual Story**

An analysis of wages and house prices in Australia from 1950 to 2025 reveals a significant and ever-widening gap between the two. While both have risen over the 75-year period, the escalation in house prices has far outpaced the growth in wages, making it increasingly difficult for the average Australian to enter the property market.

The accompanying graph starkly illustrates this trend. The line representing median house prices shows a much steeper climb than that of average annual wages. This divergence becomes particularly pronounced from the 1980s onwards.





The Bottom Line

People feel poor not because wages never rose, but because **housing and essential costs rose much faster**, and because **most of the wage growth was captured by higher earners**. For ordinary workers, the last decade especially has been defined by **stagnant real wages and skyrocketing living costs**.